

EMBRACING JOURNEYS. ENGAGING FAITH.



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church

September 29, 2024

8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship

A Special Welcome

Thank you for joining us for worship today!

We hope that the presence of the Holy Spirit and the warmth of Christ's love are gifts to you as we worship God together. **We encourage you to explore our bulletin, fill out a Visitor Card or the red fellowship pad at the end of your pew, and take home a welcome folder found just outside the Sanctuary.**

We are a caring community of friends who come from a variety of backgrounds to seek God in this place. We are united by our faith in Christ, our care and nurture of children and families, our love of learning, our appreciation of music and worship, our passion for service, and our desire to deepen our spiritual lives. Bradley Hills is a safe place to ask the deep questions of life and a community that embraces each spiritual journey.

We seek to be a welcoming witness to the love of Jesus Christ. We believe that diversity in our membership--different ages, genders, ethnicities, abilities, races, sexual orientations, ideological and theological beliefs, and experiences--is an important strength. We come from a variety of denominational backgrounds and from around the world. We are all God's children, united by God's love.

Childcare is available for infants and toddlers ages 3 and under in our nursery. All children are welcome to grab an activity board and children's bulletins for the service.

We are a mask optional community. We have masks available just outside the Sanctuary if you would like one.

We hope we have a chance to greet you and get to know you. There are a lot of exciting activities happening at BHPC that we would love for you to be a part of. If we can share any information about the church or be of support to you in any way, just let us know. We invite you to explore our website at www.bradleyhillschurch.org.

In Christ's hope,

David Gray, Senior Pastor | david@bradleyhillschurch.org

Get Connected | Explore Membership

BHPC is excited to welcome you to our growing community. Pastor David will be available to meet with families or individuals interested in connecting more at BHPC or exploring membership. Just email David at david@bradleyhillschurch.org to set up a time. **Classes will be held on October 13 and 20.** Lunch and childcare will be included.

New Members will be received next on October 27.

If you are interested in joining the new member class, please contact Pastor David.

GATHERING TOGETHER

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

CARILION PEAL

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

GATHERING MUSIC

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
(1809-1847)

II. Adagio, Sonata for Organ, *Op. 65, No.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Spirit is with us and in us.

All: **We are in Spirit.**

One: Spirit heals.

All: **Spirit comforts.**

One: Spirit challenges.

All: **Spirit challenges us to open our hearts and minds.**

One: Trust in the Holy One, for Spirit brings life.

All: **Our hearts are open wide; let us worship God in spirit and truth.**

*HYMN 356

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Nettleton

WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE SHARED

Pastor David Gray

One: This is the day the Lord has made.

All: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Coat Drive

Elder Kate Bushman Smith

CONFESSING & PRAISING

PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

David Gray

Mighty Planter God, you have thrown your seed on the ground that it might take root. You intended for us hope and abundance and new life. But, in our limited understanding,

*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

we have mixed some of our seeds in with your own—seeds of fear and bitterness, of greed and apathy. And then, even worse, seeing our mistakes, we have torn up the garden trying to make our garden “pure” again. We have pushed out our brothers and sisters, created laws that hurt and destroy, and built walls that isolate us from others and from ourselves. Forgive us our anxious weeding, O God, and help us to repair the garden of your heart. Show us how to cultivate a place of fruitfulness and hospitality, a place of grace and peace. And teach us trust, that we might follow the Spirit’s lead in tending the garden.

Silence for personal confession

KYRIE 572

John Merbecke, 1550
arr. Healey Willan, 1930



One: We pray.

All: Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Friends, believe the good news.

All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE & INVITATION TO CHILDREN

Children are invited, with the permission of their parents, to come forward and sit on the Chancel steps for the Children’s Message.

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, Before His throne rejoice;

Praise is His gracious choice; Alleluia! Amen!

EXPERIENCING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

DCYFM Rosanna Howard

*Children ages 3 to 5th grade are invited to Church School following the Children's Message.
Parents may pick up their children upstairs in the education hallway at their classroom doors.*

REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE FOR CHILDREN

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 14:15-19, 25-26

Steve Fox

One: This is the word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

(1809-1847)

Verleih'uns Frieden
*Verleih'uns Frieden gnädiglich,
Herr Gott, zu unsern Zeiten.
Es ist doch ja kein andrer nicht,
der für uns könnte streiten,
denn du, unser Gott, alleine.*

In these our days so perilous,
Lord, peace in mercy send us;
No God but thee can fight for us,
No God but thee defend us;
Thou our only God and Savior.'

SERMON

Pastor Denise Diaab

*HYMN 319

Spirit

James K Manley
(b. 1975)

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**RESPONSE IN FAITH -
AN EXCERPT FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH
(BOOK OF CONFESSIONS PCUSA)**

Rev. Jermaine Ross-Allam

(In unison)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.
The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.
In a broken and fearful world
the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

RESPONSE IN OFFERINGS—CALL FOR OFFERING

Scan the QR code to make an offering or place your offering in the offering plate. As we make our offerings, guests are encouraged to fill out the Visitor Card or the fellowship pads in the pews; fellowship pads can be passed to the end of your row and back so that we might greet each other in our rows by name following the service.



OFFERTORY

B.E. Boykin

John 3:16

(b. circa 1988)

For God so loved the world
that he gave His only begotten son
that whosoever believeth in Him
shall not perish but have eternal life.

SUNG OFFERING OF THANKSGIVING

*Doxology

Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

RESPONSE IN PRAYER - CONCERNS & CELEBRATION

Response for Concerns:

Response for Celebrations:

One: Lord, in your mercy,

One: With thanksgiving,

All: Hear our prayers.

All: We praise the Lord.

Said in unison.

RESPONSE IN PRAYER - THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

*HYMN 276

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Faithfulness

*BENEDICTION

SENDING MUSIC

Prelude in C Major

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Preview of October 6

Join Us for Worship | 8:30 a.m. in-person* & 10:30 a.m. in-person and online

Preacher: Pastor David Gray | *How do we know God?*

8:30 a.m. A more casual service outside at the cross through much of the Fall season.

9:15 a.m. Adult Education in the lounge (childcare provided)

10:30 a.m. Our traditional service with music from the Chancel Choir and Church School for our little ones through 5th grade.

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

**In the case of inclement weather, the 8:30 a.m. service will be held in Covenant Hall.*

Being part of worship

As we enter the new program year, we would like to encourage community members to be a part of worship. If you would like to read scripture or lead a call to worship some Sunday, contact **Pastor David** or **Pastor Denise**.

Serving as an Elder or Deacon

Later in September, our Nominating Committee will begin following the Spirit to lift up the names of potential elders and deacons to serve our congregation. If you would like to suggest someone to serve on either board, including yourself, contact **Curt West** (jcwest67@gmail.com) or **Pastor David**.

Liturgy

As the program year has begun, we have shifted some elements of liturgy as we often do at this time of year. With BHPC members having three different doxology preferences, we try and rotate what we include in the bulletin over time.

Upcoming Adult Education

The Bradley Hills Adult Education Lay Ministry provides sessions each Sunday from 9:15–10:15 a.m. *Childcare is provided.*

The month of October portends anxiety, hope, promise, and uncertainty. The Adult Education Lay Ministry encourages you to join us Sunday mornings to listen to outstanding speakers and share within our safe community.

October 6 - Addressing the challenges of intergenerational communication in this time of elevated anxiety and conflict. Allison Brown and Aubrey Berry, child and family therapists, will help us understand how to have successful conversations within parents, children and grandchildren, where thoughts and values can be shared and supported to develop genuine connection.

October 13 - Indigenous Peoples Day Weekend, Janine Smith, Lakota, descendant and enrolled citizen of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, and Archivist at Loyola University, New Orleans. The troubled relationship between Native communities and Christianity (e.g., boarding schools) as well as the challenges of documenting land ownership in 2024 after Native communities have been excluded from the recordkeeping process. How can we restore and heal these relationships?



Annual Coat Drive

Sundays, September 29–October 13, 2024

Give the Gift of Warmth!

BHPC is supporting families with kids at Arcola Elementary School through our annual coat drive! Here's how you can help:

1. Volunteer to help run the coat drive on Sunday mornings. Set up, sales, and packing assistance is needed. Email Denise if you're interested or use Sign Up Genius.
2. Purchase a coat during Coffee Hour after the 10:30 a.m. service in Covenant Hall on September 29 & October 13 and Memorial Hall on October 6.
3. Support the coat drive through a financial donation of \$40 for youth or \$75 for adult coats.

Purchase Coats in Covenant Hall or Make a Donation

www.bradleyhillchurch.org/coatdrive



Coat Drive Volunteering

BHPC is supporting families with kids at Arcola Elementary School through our annual coat drive. We're in need of volunteers to help run the coat drive over two more Sunday mornings: October 6 and October 13. We're looking for set up, sales, and packing assistance. Help keep kids warm this winter. Sign up today!

To volunteer, go to [Sign Up Genius](#) with the QR code or visit www.bradleyhillchurch.org/coatdrive.

Email Pastor Denise with any questions.



FALL CALL CLEAN UP

Your help is urgently needed to prepare our beautiful church grounds for winter. On October 20, come dressed in your gardening clothes! Join us after the 10:30 worship for a snack, followed by fun and fellowship outside. See you there!



Rake Leaves



Transplant Plants



Weeding

Join Us in Memorial Hall
After 10:30 Worship



Smart Sacks | A Family-Friendly Serving Opportunity

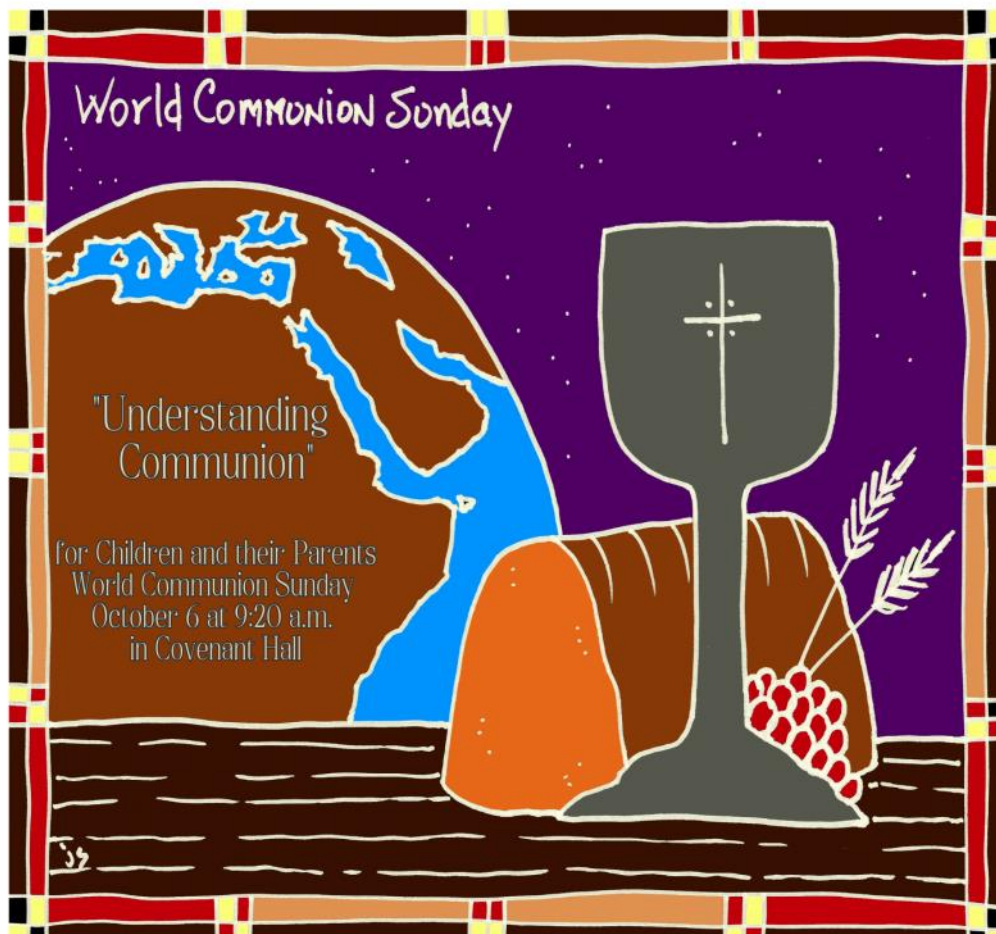
Smart Sacks is a family-friendly serving opportunity that occurs right after the 10:30 a.m. service in the Lounge to pack sacks of food for families in Montgomery County Public Schools who are food insecure.

We need volunteers to:

- **Help us Set Up on Sunday mornings:** We need volunteers to help set up the Smart Sack stations before the assembly. Volunteers will need to be able to do some lifting in order to help with set up.
- **Help us Pack and Assemble the Smart Sacks:** An opportunity for the whole family! Join us immediately after the 10:30 a.m. worship service to pack and assemble the sacks that will go to the families for the following weekend.
- **Help us Deliver assembled Smart Sacks:** We need volunteers to deliver food **during the week** to designated public schools. Volunteers who would like to deliver will also need to be able to do some lifting as well.



Interested in joining the Smart Sacks Team? Contact Elaine Henderson or Jim Kettler during the Smart Sacks assembly time after the 10:30 a.m. worship.



Intergenerational Choir – Sunday, October 6, 2024 – 9:15am

Join us for our Intergenerational Choir, open to all from 5th grade onward. No reservations or preparation needed. The choir will gather, rehearse beautiful and tuneful music, and then sing it in worship during the service. Please email matthew@bradleyhillchurch.org with any questions.

Save the Date for Oct 6 - Day of Service

The first Sunday in October is World Communion Sunday. The perfect day for you, your friends, and your children to join your church family in a Day of Service on Sunday, October 6.

After church, we will leave the sanctuary and head to Memorial Hall and get to our joyful work:



- Assemble Smart Sacks: weekend food for local schools through Manna
- Assemble Disaster Kits-Presbyterian Disaster Assistance & Church World Service.
- Help with buying and sorting coats for the Annual Coat Drive for Arcola Elementary

This is a child-friendly volunteer event. There will be childcare available for our youngest children.

Watch for more details on Sunday morning in late September. Come one, come all! We are looking forward to working together. **Questions? Please contact Pastor Denise.**

A Music Note

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy's beautiful and lush piece *Verleih'uns Frieden* is an ardent and striking prayer for peace, with a repeated text, each time repeated with more voices and more urgency.

John 3:16 is a touching and unpretentious setting of this beloved text by Black American composer B.E. (Brittany) Boykin.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 5-7 PM

Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, Parking Lot
6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda



Register



TRUNK or TREAT



CELEBRATING



YEARS



BRADLEY HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

SAVE THE DATE!
MAY 3, 2025



Bradley Hills Nursery School Update

Back to School Night is Tuesday, October 1st, and our parents will get to spend time with their child's teachers and learn what a typical day at Bradley Hills looks and feels like. In addition to spending time in their child's classroom, parents will socialize in the Rainy Day Room and meet the parents of their children's classmates.



We have begun planning for the 2025-2026 school year. Current families of the preschool and BHPC community members receive priority placement when registering their child(ren). Our play-based program, taught by loving teachers, is the ideal first school experience for your child.

To learn more about us or to schedule a tour visit our website [HERE](#), call the office at 301-365-2909, or email us at info@bhpcns.org.

Sign-Ups for Flower Deliveries and Dedications

When a member of the Flower Guild team creates an arrangement for the Sunday worship service, the deacons partner with the Flower Guild to deliver the flowers to share the natural beauty of creation with someone in the congregation. These people are either unable to attend the service in person, need a little TLC, or are celebrating life's joys. Deacons Caroline Simpson and Dee Llewellyn coordinate the delivery of the flowers to recipients. Caroline and Dee are looking for volunteers from the congregation to take the arrangement from church and deliver it to the recipient right after the service. **If you are interested in doing this one Sunday, the deacons welcome you to scan the QR code, or contact Caroline Simpson at ccdale@gmail.com or Dee Llewellyn to at [gjdee@aol.com](mailto:gjee@aol.com) to select your Sunday.**



Scan the QR code to the left or contact Kristen Abbott or the Flower Guild if you are **interested in dedicating flowers in honor or in memory of someone.** Each dedication costs \$65.00. All proceeds go to funding the Flower Guild and Sunday morning flower arrangements.

Flower Dedication

From Christina and Catherine in remembrance of Mom's Birthday.

Ways to Give at BHPC

Cash or Check Giving



6601 Bradley Blvd
Bethesda, MD 20817



Text Giving

Mobile Giving



Download the Realm
Connect App



Realm Giving

www.bradleyhillchurch.org

Click the **GIVE NOW** button

A Note From Stewardship

We are thankful for your gifts that allow inspiration and energy to blossom and fill this place of worship.

ATTENTION: New Instructions for Stock Donations

BHPC is changing how we receive stock donations from church members. We recently hired a new firm, Sandlot Financial Partners, to manage our investment portfolio. It has agreed to receive and liquidate these stock gifts for us free of charge, saving the church a few thousand dollars a year.



If you make a regular, or the occasional, stock donation, please use this new information.
Questions? Contact Jan Spencer at jan@bradleyhillchurch.org

Celebrations & Concerns: Please Pray With Us

We hold in God's healing presence those who are experiencing grief and loss including:

- The family of Mary Stinson (Charles Brodine's sister's mother-in-law) who died on September 5.
- The family of Barbara Voulgaris (Charles Brodine's friend) whose father died on September 22.
- The family Judy (Jana Coffey's mother) whose memorial service will be held October 12 in Gainesville, Florida

We give thanks to God for joys and celebrations:

- Congratulations and all blessings to Melissa Kallas (daughter of Lou and Pat Kallas) and Ryan Cox who were married on September 21.
- Charles Brodine has completed a third of his dissertation thesis.

We hold in God's healing presence those who are suffering or have other concerns including:

- Those hospitalized, injured, facing/recovering from surgery, being treated for chronic illness, ALS, or Parkinson's, recovering from Covid, awaiting medical results, receiving hospice care, and/or isolated from the community.
- Prayers for Anna.
- Pam Hammers who is having surgery on October 1.
- Hazel Ghurani who was hospitalized and is recovering from injuries resulting from a fall.
- Linda Kauskay who is recovering from knee surgery on September 24.
- Sarah Remington (daughter of John and Barbara Buchman) for health and well-being.
- Megan Casey (friend of Charles Brodine) who is searching for a new job in the DMV.
- A family who recently moved to the area as they transition into this new environment.

We hold in God's healing presence the suffering people of our world, and all the places where people are experiencing hurt and division:

- Those who have been affected by Hurricane Helene.
- The immigrant communities in Springfield Ohio and Aurora Colorado who are being unfairly targeted as result of false rumors.
- Those who live in hope for an end to gun violence and healing for the division in America.
- Those affected by hate, discrimination, and intolerance in all its forms as we stand in solidarity with our Jewish, Muslim, and LGBTQ+ siblings.
- The people in Gaza, Israel, Taiwan, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Haiti, Ukraine, and Russia.
- Those suffering from mental illness and/or addiction.
- Those who are caregivers.

If you would like to join our prayer chain or share a prayer concern, contact Pastor Denise (denise@bradleyhillchurch.org).

A New Program Year at Bradley Hills

Worship

Worship at 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

8:30 a.m. Worship (**in-person**) | at the cross (with good weather)
or Covenant Hall

10:30 a.m. Worship (**in-person & online**) | Sanctuary

Adult Education & Small Groups

Adult Education | Sundays at 9:15 a.m. -10:15 a.m. in the Lounge or on Zoom

Bible Study | Wednesdays at 2 p.m. on Zoom | Discussion of upcoming scripture

Fall Small Groups | Six-week study on *Jesus and the Disinherited*

Mission in the Fall

Becky's House & Lon's House | Make a one-time meal for eight.

Coat Drive | Donate or purchase a new coat. | Sept. 29, Oct. 6, & Oct. 13

Day of Service | Assembling Disaster Kits | October 6

Feeding Families | Collaborating with Faith Presbyterian Church in Anacostia.

Smart Sacks | Pack sacks of food for families in need.

Children, Youth, & Family Programs

Childcare | Children 3 and under at 10:30 a.m. Worship

Church School | Sundays at 10:45 a.m. after the Children's Message

Pre-K to Kindergarten | 1st to 2nd Grade | 3rd to 5th Grade

Confirmation | Sundays at 9:10 a.m. to 10:10 a.m.

Youth Group | Sundays at 12:00 p.m. in the Youth Lounge

Youth Group - Dessert and Devotion | Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in Kitchen

Music

Chancel Choir | Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Lantern Chorale | Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Choir Room

Alleluia Singers | Sundays at 11:45 a.m. in the Choir Room

Worship Note

The Call to Worship was written by June Goudey and the Prayer of Adoration and Confession was written by Anna Shirey from *Before the Amen* edited by Maren C. Tirabassi and Maria I Tirabassi.

Our Staff

Senior Pastor	David Gray	david@bradleyhillschurch.org
Associate Pastor	Denise Diaab	denise@bradleyhillschurch.org
Director of Music	Matthew Robertson	matthew@bradleyhillschurch.org
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries	Rosanna Howard	rosanna@bradleyhillschurch.org
Director of Financial Ministries	Jan Spencer	jan@bradleyhillschurch.org
Facilities Manager	Farid Beltran	farid@bradleyhillschurch.org
Office Manager	Kristen Abbott	kristen@bradleyhillschurch.org
Coordinator of External Communication	Beth Beisel	beth@bradleyhillschurch.org
Coordinator for Spiritual Life	Gail Brown	polserbrown@hotmail.com
Pastoral Counselors	Samantha Steinfeld	samantha.steinfeld@imagocenterdc.com
	Tory Joseph	victoria.joseph@imagocenterdc.com
Nursery School Director	Liz Sobrino	lsobrino@bhpcns.org 301-365-2909
Friends Club Director	Ken Silverstein	ken@friendsclubbethesda.org (301) 469-0070

Sextons - Juan Mendez, Leonel Bruno, Juan E. Mendez and Jorge Miranda

Child Caregivers - Nora Mendez, DelCarla Shorter and Liz Allen

Parish Associates - Wally Harman and Jong Mi Lee

Director of Music Emeritus - Donald S. Sutherland

Section Leaders—Marie Marquis (soprano), Kaytlin Withers (alto), Brynn Farlow (tenor), Steven Slupe (bass)

Interested in Staying Up-to-Date on BHPC? Get Connected!

Interested in staying connected and informed about BHPC? Contact our Office Manager at **kristen@bradleyhillschurch.org**, and ask her to add you to our weekly email list.

Worship Schedule

Services at 8:30 & 10:30 am

October 6 | World Communion Day

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

Topic: How do we know God?

October 13

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

Topic: What are we supposed to do with God?

October 20 | Stewardship Sunday

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

Topic: Where are we to find God?

October 27 | Reformation Sunday

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

Topic: What are we not supposed to do with God?

November 3 | All Saints and Communion Sunday

8:30 am: Pastor David Gray

10:30 am: Special Music featuring Bach's Christ Lag in Todesbanden

November 10 | Dedication Sunday

Preaching: Pastor David Gray

Topic: Who holds the future?

November 17 | Interfaith Sunday